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[FSE 113]

Anno Regni

**GULIELMI III.**  
**REGIS**

*Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,*

**Undecimo & Duodecimo,**

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the Four and Twenty Day of *August*, Anno Dom. 1698. In the Tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord **WILLIAM** the Third, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland*, King Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence Continued by several Prorogations and Adjournments to the Sixteenth Day of *November*, 1699. being the Second Session of this present Parliament.

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Printed at *London*, and Re-printed at *Edinburgh*, 1700.

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Anno Undecimo & Duodecimo  
GULIELMI III. REGIS.

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*An Act for the further Preventing the  
growth of Popery.*

**W** Hereas there has been of late a much greater resort into this Kingdom than formerly of Popish Bishops, Priests and Jesuits, and they do very openly and in Insolent manner Affront the Laws, and daily endeavour to pervert His Majesties Natural Subjects, which has been occasioned by neglect of the due Execution of the Laws already in Force: For preventing the further growth of Popery, and of such Treasonable and Execrable Designs and Conspiracies against his Majesties Person and Government, and the established Religion, as have lately, as well as frequently heretofore been brought to light, and happily defeated by the wonderful Providence of God, Be it enacted by the Kings most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by Authority of the same, That from and after the Five and Twenty Day of *March* One Thousand and Seven Hundred, all and every Person and Persons, who shall Apprehend and Take one or more Popish Bishop, Priest or Jesuit, and Prosecute him or them so Apprehended and Taken, untill



he or they be convicted of saying Mass, or of Exercising any other part of the Office or Function of a Popish Bishop or Priest within these Realms, shall have and receive from the Sheriff or Sheriffs of the County where such Conviction shall be made (without paying any Fee for the same) for every such Offender so Convicted, the Sum of One Hundred Pounds within Four Months after such Conviction, and Demand thereof made, by rendering a Certificate to the said Sheriff or Sheriffs, under the Hand or Hands of the Judge or Justices before whom such Conviction shall be made, Certifying the Conviction of such Popish Bishop, Priest or Jesuit, and also that such Popish Bishop, Priest or Jesuit, Popish Bishops, Priests or Jesuits, was or were taken by the Person or Persons Claiming the said Reward: And in Case any Dispute shall happen to arise between the Persons so Apprehending any Popish Bishop, Priest or Jesuit, touching their Right and Title to the said Reward, that then the said Judge or Justices, so respectively Certifying as aforesaid, shall in and by their said Certificate Direct and Appoint the said Reward to be paid unto, and amongst the Parties claiming the same, in such share and proportion as to the said Judge or Justices shall seem Just and Reasonable; And if it shall happen any such Sheriff or Sheriffs shall Die, or be removed before the Expiration of Four Months after such Conviction & Demand made of the said Reward, (not being paid as aforesaid) that then the next succeeding Sheriff or Sheriffs of the said County shall pay the same, within two Months after Demand and Certificate brought as aforesaid: And if default of payment of the said Sum or Sums of Money shall happen to be made by any Sheriff or Sheriffs, such Sheriff or Sheriffs so making default, shall Forfeit to the Person or Persons to whom such Money is due, as aforesaid, Two hun-

Hundred Pounds, to be Recovered by him or them, or his or their Executors or Administrators, in any of His Majesties Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein but one Imparlance, and no Essoign, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed, with full Costs of Suit by him or them expended in the recovery of the same.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That all Sheriffs, their Successors, Executors or Administrators, upon producing such respective Certificates, or a Duplicate or Duplicates thereof, shall have the Moneys contained in such Certificate paid to them by the Lord Treasurer, or Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury for the time being, out of the Revenue of the Crown.

And for a further Remedy against the growth of Popery, over and beyond the Good Laws already made, Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Popish Bishop, Priest or Jesuit whatsoever, shall say Mass, or Exercise any other part of the Office or Function of a Popish Bishop or Priest within these Realms, or the Dominions thereunto belonging. Or if any Papist or Person, making Profession of the Popish Religion, shall keep School, or take upon themselves the Education or Government, or Boarding of Youth in any Place within this Realm, or the Dominions thereto belonging, such Person or Persons, being thereof lawfully convicted, that then every such Person shall on such Conviction be Adjudged to perpetual Imprisonment, in such Place or Places within this Kingdom, as the King by Advice of his Privy Council shall appoint.

And be it also further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Nine and Twenty day of *September*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand  
Seven

Seven Hundred, If any Person Educated in the Popish Religion, or professing the same, shall not within Six Months after he or she shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and also subscribe the Declaration set down and Exprest in an Act of Parliament, made in the Thirtieth year of the Reign of the late King Charles the Second, Intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Preserving the Kings Person and Government, by Disabling Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament*; to be by him or her made, Repeated and Subscribed in the Courts of Chancery or Kings Bench, or Quarter Sessions of the County where such Person shall reside, every such Person shall in respect of him or her self only, and not to or in respect of any of his or her Heirs or Posterity, be disabled and made incapable to inherit or take, by Descent, Devise or Limitation, in Possession, Reversion or Remainder, any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or Town of Berwick upon Tweed: And that during the Life of such Person, or until he or she do take the said Oaths, and make, repeat and subscribe the said Declaration, in manner as aforesaid, the next of his or her kindred, which shall be a Protestant, shall have and Enjoy the said Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, without being accountable for the Profits by him or her received during such Enjoyment thereof, as aforesaid: But in case of any wilful Waste committed on the said Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, by the Person so having or enjoying the same, or any other by his or her Licence or Authority, the Party disabled, his or her Executors & Administrators, shall and may recover Treble Damages for the same, against the Person committing such Waste, his or her Executors or Admi-



nistrators, by Action of Debt, in any of His Majesties Courts of Record at *Westminster*; And that from and after the 10 Day *April*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred, every Papist or person making profession of the Popish Religion, shall be disabled, and is hereby made incapable to purchase either in his or her own Name, or in the Name of any other Person or Persons, to his or her Use, or in Trust for him or her, any Manors, Lands, Profits out of Lands, Tenements, Rents, Terms or Hereditaments, within the Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*; and that all and singular Estates, Terms, and any other Interests or Profits whatsoever out of Lands, from and after the said Tenth day of *April* to be made, Suffered or done, to or for the use or behoof of any such Person or Persons, Or upon any Trust or Confidence, mediately or immediately, to or for the Benefit or Relief of any such Person or Persons, shall be utterly void and of none effect, to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes whatsoever.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained, shall be construed to extend to any Popish Priest, for saying Mass or Officiating as a Priest within the Dwelling-House of any Foreign Minister residing here, so as such Priest be not one of His Majesties Natural born Subjects, nor Naturalized within any of his Kingdoms or Dominions, and so as the Name of such Priest, and the place of his Birth, and the Foreign Minister to whom he shall belong, be Entered and Registered in the Office of the Principal Secretary of State:

And whereas by an Act made in the Third Year of King *James the First*, intituled, *An Act to Prevent and avoid Dan-*

gers which may grow by Popish Recusants, whosoever shall be Convicted of sending or causing to be sent, any Child or any other Person under their Government, into parts beyond the Seas out of the Kings obedience, to the intent that such Child or Person so sent should be Educated in the Romish Religion, contrary to the said Act, is to Forfeit One Hundred Pounds, one half to the Kings Majesty, and the other half to him that shall Sue for the same: For the greater Encouragement and Reward of those who shall Discover such Offenders, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Sum of One Hundred Pounds shall be to the sole Use and Benefite of him or her who shall Discover and convict any Person so offending, to be recovered in such manner as in the said Recited Act is Enacted; any thing in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And to the end that the Protestant Children of Popish Parents may not in the Life times of such their Parents, for want of fitting Maintenance be necessitated, in Compliance with their Parents, to imbrace the Popish Religion, contrary to their own Inclinations, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the said Five and Twentieth Day of March, One Thousand Seven Hundred, if any such Parent, in order to the Compelling such his or her Protestant Child to change his or her Religion, shall refuse to allow such Child a fitting Maintenance, suitable to the Degree and Ability of such Parent and to the Age and Education of such Child, then upon Complaint thereof made to the Lord High Chancellor of England, or Lord keeper of the Great Seal, or Commissioners for the Great Seal, for the time being, it shall be lawfull for the said Lord Chancellor, Lord keeper, or Commissioners, to make such Order there-in as shall be agreeable to the intent of this Act.

F I N I S.